

I CLAIM:

1. A printing device, comprising:

a controller configured to determine whether a position of the printing device is within a first physical environment, and upon such determination, to
5 adjust to a mode of operation useful in interacting with a source device associated with the first physical environment; and

a communication interface configured to establish a communication link between the printing device and the source device, and to interact with the source device via the communication link utilizing the adjusted mode of
10 operation.

2. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a wireless communication interface, and the communication link is a wireless communication link.

3. The printing device of claim 2, wherein wireless communication interface is an optical interface.

4. The printing device of claim 2, wherein wireless communication interface is a radio frequency interface.

5. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is configured to initiate establishing the communication link prior to the controller adjusting the mode of operation; and

wherein the controller is configured to determine whether a position of the printing device is within the first physical environment at least in part by detecting establishment of the communication link with a source device within the first physical environment.

6. The printing device of claim 1, further comprising a position sensor configured to detect position of the printing device.

7. The printing device of claim 6, wherein the position sensor is an optical sensor configured to receive signals from one or more of an optical position beacon, a radio frequency position beacon, and a global positioning satellite position beacon.

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8. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the source device is a computing device.

9. The printing device of claim 8, wherein the computing device is selected from the group consisting of a laptop computing device, hand held computing device, print server, and desktop computing device.

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10. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the source device is a computer peripheral.

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11. The printing device of claim 10, wherein the computer peripheral is selected from the group consisting of projector, scanner, and printer.

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12. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to adjust the mode of operation of the printing device at least in part by configuring the printing device to receive print jobs from the source device.

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13. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is configured to communicate with the source device through a computer network, and wherein the controller is configured to adjust the mode of operation of the printing device at least in part by configuring the printing device to interact with the network.

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14. The printing device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to adjust the mode of operation of the printing device at least in part by configuring the printing device to send data to a destination device.

15. The printing device of claim 14, wherein the source device is the destination device.

16. The printing device of claim 14, further comprising a scanner
5 configured to collect scan data, wherein the controller is configured to adjust the mode of operation of the printing device at least in part by sending the scan data to the destination device.

17. A printing system, comprising, a printing device configured (a) to
10 detect that the printing device that the printing device is within a threshold proximity of a source device, and, in response, (b) to connect to the source device via a communication link and configure the printing device to interact with the source device.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the printing device further includes
15 one or more of an optical interface, a radio frequency interface, and a global positioning satellite sensor configured to detect the threshold proximity to the source device.

19. A printing system, comprising:
20 a source device having an associated first physical environment; and
a printing device configured to determine whether the printing device is positioned within the first physical environment associated with the source device, to adjust the printing device to a mode of operation that is useful in
25 interacting with the source device, and to establish a communication link with the source device, according to the adjusted mode of operation.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the printing device is configured to adjust to the mode of operation at least in part by downloading program components useful in communication with the source device.

5 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the source device is a projector, and wherein the printing device is configured to adjust to the mode of operation at least in part by configuring the printing device to print documents displayed via the projector.

10 22. The system of claim 19, wherein the printing device is configured to adjust to the mode of operation at least in part by configuring the printing device to send and/or receive faxes via the source device.

15 23. The system of claim 19, wherein the source device includes a source scanner, and wherein the printing device is configured to adjust to the mode of operation at least in part by configuring the printing device to print scans from the source scanner.

20 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the printing device includes an onboard scanner, and wherein the printing device is configured to adjust to the mode of operation at least in part by configuring the printing device to send scan data from the onboard scanner to a destination device associated with the first physical environment.

25 25. The system of claim 19, wherein the printing device includes a position sensor, and the printing device is configured to transmit positional information about the printing device to the source device.

26. A system for use in operating a printing device within a computer network, the system comprising:

a computer network having an associated first physical environment; and

5 a printing device including a plurality of modes of operation, the printing device being configured to detect that the printing device is within the first physical environment;

wherein, upon the printing device detecting that the printing device is within the first physical environment, the printing device is configured to establish a communication link with the computer network and automatically change from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation, the second mode of operation assisting the printing device in interacting with the computer network.

27. A method for use in configuring a printing device, the method comprising:

15 detecting that the printing device is within a first physical environment, the first physical environment having an associated source device;

adjusting the printing device to a mode of operation that is useful for interaction with the associated source device; and

20 establishing a communication link between the printing device and the associated source device.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein adjusting to the mode of operation includes configuring the printing device to receive print jobs from the associated source device.

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29. The method of claim 27, wherein adjusting to the mode of operation includes configuring the printing device to interact with the associated source device via a computer network.

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30. The method of claim 27, wherein adjusting to the mode of operation includes configuring the printing device to send data to a destination device associated with the first physical environment.

5 31. The method of claim 27, wherein adjusting to the mode of operation includes configuring the printing device to identify whether the associated source device is in the same physical environment as the printing device, and if so, to configure the printing device to receive print jobs from the associated source device.

10 32. The method of claim 27, wherein adjusting to the mode of operation includes configuring the printing device to detect whether a destination device is in the same physical environment as the printing device, and if so, to configure the printing device to send data to the destination device.

15 33. The method of claim 27, wherein detecting that the printing device is within the first physical environment includes detecting a signal from a position beacon.

20 34. The method of claim 27, wherein detecting that the printing device is within the first physical environment includes detecting a radio frequency signal.

25 35. The method of claim 27, wherein detecting that the printing device is within the first physical environment includes detecting an optical signal.

30 36. The method of claim 27, wherein detecting that the printing device is within the first physical environment includes detecting a global positioning satellite signal.

37. A method of configuring a printing device, the method comprising:
establishing a communication link between the printing device and a
source device associated with a first physical environment;
adjusting the printing device to a mode of operation that is useful for
5 interaction with the associated source device; and
communicating with the associated source device according to the
adjusted mode of operation.

38. A print system, comprising:
10 a source device having an associated first physical environment, the
source device storing printable material;
a printing device;
means for detecting presence of the printing device within the first physical
environment; and
15 means for adjusting the printing device to a mode of operation useful in
printing the printable material from the source device on the printing device.

39. A processor-readable medium for a printing device having
processor-executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by
20 a processor, cause the processor to:
detect that the printing device is within a first physical environment, the
first physical environment having an associated source device;
adjust to a mode of operation useful for interaction between the printing
device and the source device; and
25 establish a communication link between the printing device and the source
device utilizing the adjusted mode of operation.

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